

## INTERESTING FACTS AND QUOTES REGARDING AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN FOUNDERS

### According to the Book of Mormon

1 Nephi 3:139-140, 144-148, 152 – **139** And it came to pass that I saw among the nations of the Gentiles the foundation of a great church. **140** And the angel said unto me, Behold the foundation of a church, which is most abominable above all other churches, **which slayeth the saints of God, yea, and tortureth them and bindeth them down, and yoketh them with a yoke of iron, and bringeth them down into captivity.....** **144** And also for the praise of the world do they destroy the saints of God, **and bring them down into captivity.** **145** And it came to pass that I looked and beheld many waters; and they divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren. **146** And it came to pass that the angel saith unto me, Behold the wrath of God is upon the seed of thy brethren! **147** And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, which was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; **and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man;** and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, which were in the promised land. **148** And it came to pass that I **beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity,** upon the many waters..... **152** And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles which had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, **and the power of the Lord was with them;**

### Christopher Columbus

From:

<http://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1201-1500/columbus-landed-in-america-11629896.html>

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Christopher\\_Columbus](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Christopher_Columbus)

<http://maxwellinstitute.byu.edu/publications/books/?bookid=73&chapid=882>

[https://www.lds.org/ensign/1992/10/columbus-and-the-hand-of-god?lang=eng#footnote15-92910\\_000\\_003](https://www.lds.org/ensign/1992/10/columbus-and-the-hand-of-god?lang=eng#footnote15-92910_000_003)

Quotes from Christopher Columbus:

1. "O Lord, Almighty and everlasting God, by Thy holy Word Thou hast created the heaven, and the earth, and the sea; blessed and glorified be Thy Name, and praised be Thy Majesty, which hath designed to use us, Thy humble servants, that Thy holy Names may be proclaimed in this second part of the earth." (Prayer Christopher Columbus gave when land was sighted on October 12, 1492)
2. "Exhausted, I fell asleep, groaning," he reported to the sovereigns. "I heard a very compassionate voice, saying: 'O fool and slow to believe and to serve thy God, the God of all! ... Thou criest for help, doubting. Answer, who has afflicted thee so greatly and so often, God or the world? ... Not one jot of His word fails; all that He promises, He performs with interest; is this the manner of men? I have said that which thy Creator has done for thee and does for all men. Now in part He shows thee the reward for the anguish and danger which thou hast endured in the service of others.' I heard all of this as if I were in a trance, but I had no answer

to give to words so true, but could only weep for my errors. He, whoever he was, who spoke to me, ended saying: 'Fear not; have trust; all these tribulations are written upon marble and are not without cause.'" (from "Letter of Columbus on the Fourth Voyage," in *The Four Voyages of Columbus*, tr. Cecil Jane, 2:90–92)

3. "The only thing that sustains me is my hope in him who created everyone; his support has always been near. On one occasion not long ago, when I was deeply distressed, he raised me with his right arm, saying: 'O man of little faith, arise, it is I, do not be afraid.'" (from Cristóbal Colón, *Textos y documentos completos: Relaciones de viajes, cartas y memoriales*, ed. Consuelo Varela (Madrid: Alianza Editorial, 1989), pp. 263–64)
4. "With a hand that could be felt," he wrote to the king and queen in a prefatory letter, "the Lord opened my mind to the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies, and he opened my will to desire to accomplish the project. This was the fire that burned within me when I came to visit Your Highnesses. ... Who can doubt that this fire was not merely mine, but also the Holy Spirit who encouraged me with a radiance of marvelous illumination from his sacred Scriptures." (from *Libro de las profecias*, p. 105. *Raccolta*, pt. I, vol. ii, p. 79)
5. "The eternal God our Lord gives to all those who walk in his path victory over things that seem impossible. And this is notably one; for, although men have talked or written of these lands, all has been conjecture. ... All Christendom ought to feel delight and make great feasts and give solemn thanks to the Holy Trinity with many solemn prayers for the great exaltation they shall have in the turning of so many people to our holy faith." (from Cristóbal Colón, *Textos y documentos completos: Relaciones de viajes, cartas y memoriales*, ed. Consuelo Varela (Madrid: Alianza Editorial, 1989), pp. 137-138)
6. "For he was not, like a Washington, a Cromwell or a Bolivar, an instrument chosen by multitudes to express their wills and lead a cause; Columbus was a Man with a Mission. . . . He was Man alone with God against human stupidity and depravity, against greedy conquistadors, cowardly seamen, even against nature and the sea. Always with God, though. . . . Men may doubt this, but there can be no doubt that the faith of Columbus was genuine and sincere, and that his frequent communion with forces unseen was a vital element in his achievement." (Samuel Eliot Morison wrote in *Admiral of the Ocean Sea* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1942), 46–47)
7. "Of this voyage, I observe," says the Admiral, "that it has miraculously been shown, as may be understood by this writing, by the many signal miracles that He has shown on the voyage, and for me, who for so great a time was in the court of Your Highnesses with the opposition and against the opinion of so many high personages of your household, who were all against me, alleging this undertaking to be folly, which I hope in Our Lord will be to the greater glory of Christianity, which to some slight extent already has happened." (Christopher Columbus quote from March 15, 1493)

Note that in recognition of the divine aid in his monumental voyage to the Americas, Columbus named the land San Salvador, which means Holy Savior.

## Pilgrim Fathers

(Wikipedia used for source material in this section)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilgrims\\_\(Plymouth\\_Colony\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilgrims_(Plymouth_Colony))

This group held Separatist beliefs comparable to nonconforming movements (i.e., groups not in communion with the Church of England). Unlike the Puritan group who maintained their membership in and allegiance to the Church of England, Separatists held that their differences with the Church of England were irreconcilable and that their worship should be organized independently of the trappings, traditions and organization of a central church.

The Separatists had long been controversial. Under the 1559 Act of Uniformity, it was illegal not to attend official Church of England services, with a fine of one shilling (£0.05; about £12 today, or approximately \$19) for each missed Sunday and holy day. The penalties for conducting unofficial services included imprisonment and larger fines. Some were even executed.

The Archbishop Matthew Hutton displayed some sympathy to the Puritan (but *not* to the Separatist) cause, writing in 1604:

“The Puritans (whose phantasticall zeale I mislike) though they differ in Ceremonies and accidentes, yet they agree with us in substance of religion, and I thinke all or the moste parte of them love his Majestie, and the presente state, and I hope will yield to conformitie. **But the Papistes are opposite and contrarie in very many substantiall pointes of religion, and cannot but wishe the Popes authoritie and popish religion to be established.**”

Regarding persecution, William Bradford wrote:

“But after these things they could not long continue in any peaceable condition, but were hunted & persecuted on every side, so as their former afflictions were but as flea-bitings in comparison of these which now came upon them. For some were taken & clapt up in prison, others had their houses besett & watcht night and day, & hardly escaped their hands; and ye most were faine to flie & leave their howses & habitations, and the means of their livelehood.”

In September 6, 1620, 102 passengers fled from this persecution and departed for America on the *Mayflower*. Land was sighted on November 9, 1620. The passengers who had endured miserable conditions for about sixty-five days were led by William Brewster in Psalm 100 as a prayer of thanksgiving.

According to BBC News, “Why the Pilgrim Fathers Left England”

([http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/47688.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/47688.stm)):

“The pilgrims believed that they were true Christians, determined to “purify” the Christian church and return to a scripture-based service. These “Puritans” were not satisfied with the reforms introduced after the separation of the English church from the Catholic Holy See in Rome.”

“Nevertheless, the Puritans were seen both as seditious and heretical for their beliefs. The King's agents persecuted them.”

“One of these small renegade congregations began to meet in 1606 in the village of Scrooby in Nottinghamshire - living under the constant threat of imprisonment or even execution. After three years, they were forced to flee. Several attempts to settle in other parts of England failed. They had to emigrate, via Amsterdam to Leiden in the Netherlands, where their religious views were tolerated.”

“But in 1618, after less than a decade, they decided to move again. They had economic problems and wanted to preserve their heritage. Furthermore they feared another Spanish Catholic invasion of the Netherlands, which would have threatened their newly found religious freedom.”

“The pilgrims resolved to settle in the English colony in North America, hoping that in this remote outpost the King's officials would leave them undisturbed.”



**Arrival of the Pilgrim Fathers**

### **Mayflower Compact**

(Wikipedia used for source material in this section)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayflower\\_Compact](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayflower_Compact)

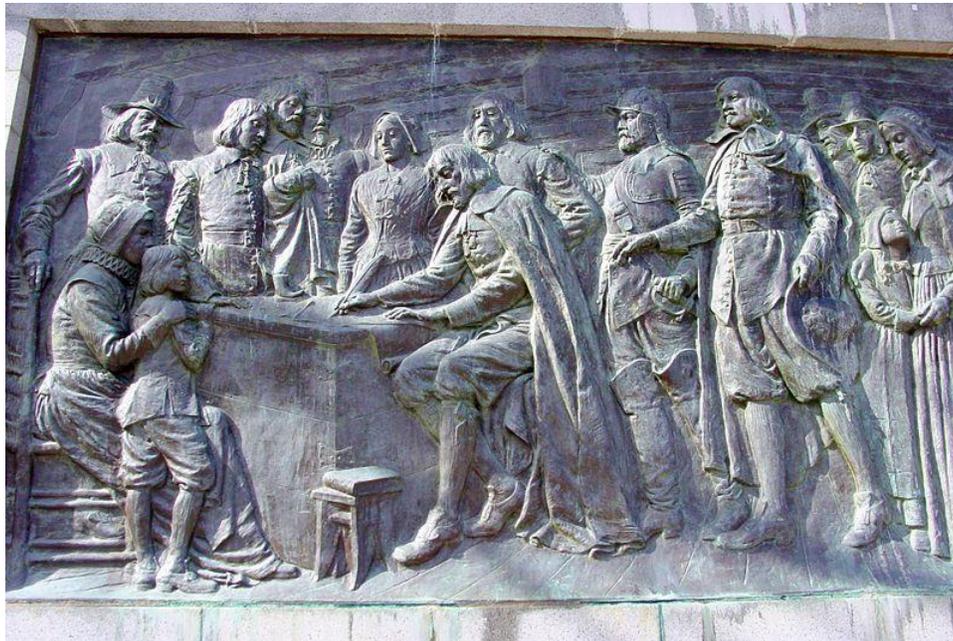
The Mayflower Compact was the first governing document of Plymouth Colony. It was written by the Separatists (Pilgrims), also known as the "Saints", fleeing from religious persecution. The Mayflower Compact was signed aboard ship on November 11, 1620 by most adult men (but not by most crew and adult male servants).

The Mayflower Compact reads (original version lost):

**“In the name of God, Amen.** We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, **by the Grace of God**, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, defender of the Faith, etc.”

**“Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith** and honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents, solemnly and mutually, **in the presence of God**, and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering, and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.”

“In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, 1620.”



**Signing of the Mayflower Compact**

### **Thanksgiving Declaration**

On November 29, 1623, three years the arrival of the pilgrims, and two years after the first Thanksgiving, Governor William Bradford made an official proclamation for a day of Thanksgiving:

“In as much as **the great Father** has given us this year and abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetable, and has made the forest to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as he has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, **has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience**; now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November ye 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twentythree, and the third since ye Pilgrims landed on Pilgrim Rock, **there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.**”

### **Quotes from our U.S. Founding Fathers and Others**

The following quotes show that many, if not most of the Founding Fathers of the United States were Christians. The quotes also show that the established principles for the new nation were based on Christianity. **Some of the Founding Fathers even acknowledged apostasy within the Christian denominations of that time (i.e. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson).** Many had a strong understanding of Christian doctrine.

#### **George Washington (1<sup>st</sup> U.S. President):**

From:

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/George\\_Washington](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/George_Washington)

[http://www.pbs.org/georgewashington/milestones/thanksgiving\\_about.html](http://www.pbs.org/georgewashington/milestones/thanksgiving_about.html)

*Separation of Church & State, What the Founders Meant* (David Barton, 2007)

1. “Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education ... reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”
2. “We have abundant reason to rejoice, that, in this land, the light of truth and reason has triumphed over the power of bigotry and superstition, and that every person may here worship God according to the dictates of his own heart. In this enlightened age, & in this land of equal liberty, it is our boast, that a man's religious tenets will not forfeit the protection of the laws, nor deprive him of the right of attaining & holding the highest offices that are known in the United States. Your prayers for my present and future felicity are received with gratitude; and I sincerely wish, Gentlemen, that you may in your social and individual capacities taste those blessings, which a gracious God bestows upon the righteous.” (Letter to the members of The New Church in Baltimore (22 January 1793), published in *The Writings Of George Washington* (1835) by Jared Sparks, p. 201)
3. “Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor, and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me 'to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.’ ”

“Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be.” (1789 Thanksgiving Day Proclamation)

4. “While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian.” (General Orders (2 May 1778); published in *Writings of George Washington* (1932), Vol.XI, pp. 342-343)
5. “The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.” (General Order, (9 July 1776) *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799: Series 3g Varick Transcripts.*)

Consider also what has been called “George Washington’s Vision” (there are disagreements regarding its validity):

<http://www.ushistory.org/valleyforge/washington/vision.html>

#### **John Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. President and Signer of the Declaration of Independence):**

From:

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/John\\_Adams](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/John_Adams)

[http://www.mtgriffith.com/web\\_documents/adams.htm](http://www.mtgriffith.com/web_documents/adams.htm)

1. “The *general principles* on which the fathers achieved independence, were ... the general principles of Christianity, in which all those sects were united, and the *general principles* of English and American liberty, in which all those young men united, and which had united all parties in America, in majorities sufficient to assert and maintain her independence. Now I will avow, that I then believed and now believe that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God; and that those principles of liberty are as unalterable as human nature and our terrestrial, mundane system.” (Letter to Thomas Jefferson, June 28, 1813)
2. “. . . we have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” (*An Address to the Officers of the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Militia of Massachusetts*, October 11, 1798)
3. “If the Christian religion, as I understand it, or as you understand it, should maintain its ground, as I believe it will, yet Platonic, Pythagoric, Hindoo, and cabalistic Christianity, which is Catholic Christianity, and which has prevailed for 1,500 years, has received a mortal wound, of which the monster must finally die. Yet so strong is his constitution, that he may endure for centuries before he expires.” (John Adams, letter to Thomas Jefferson (July 16, 1814). From the Works of John Adams, Vol. X, p. 100.)

4. "We have now, it Seems a National Bible Society, to propagate King James's Bible, through all Nations. Would it not be better to apply these pious Subscriptions, to purify Christendom from the Corruptions of Christianity; than to propagate those Corruptions in Europe Asia, Africa and America! ... Conclude not from all this, that I have renounced the Christian religion, or that I agree with Dupuis in all his Sentiments. Far from it. I see in every Page, Something to recommend Christianity in its Purity and Something to discredit its Corruptions. ... The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount contain my Religion." (Letter to Thomas Jefferson (4 November 1816) (Online image 1 - 2).)
5. "The substance and essence of Christianity, as I understand it, is eternal and unchangeable, and will bear examination forever, but it has been mixed with extraneous ingredients, which I think will not bear examination, and they ought to be separated." (Letter to Thomas Jefferson (23 January 1825), published in *Letters: The Complete Correspondence Between Thomas Jefferson and Abigail and John Adams* (UNC Press, 1988), p. 607.)
6. "The Christian religion is, above all the religions that ever prevailed or existed in ancient or modern times, the religion of wisdom, virtue, equity, and humanity, let the blackguard Paine say what he will; it is resignation to God, it is goodness itself to man." (26 July 1796).
7. "Spent an hour in the beginning of the evening at Major Gardiner's, where it was thought that the design of Christianity was not to make men good riddle-solvers, or good mystery-mongers, but good men, good magistrates, and good subjects, good husbands and good wives, good parents and good children, good masters and good servants. The following questions may be answered some time or other, namely, — Where do we find a precept in the Gospel requiring Ecclesiastical Synods? Convocations? Councils? Decrees? Creeds? Confessions? Oaths? Subscriptions? and whole cart-loads of other trumpery that we find religion incumbered with in these days?" (Diary, 18 February 1756).
8. "I really wish the Jews again in Judea, an independent nation, for, as I believe, the most enlightened men of it have participated in the amelioration of the philosophy of the age; once restored to an independent government, and no longer persecuted, they would soon wear away some of the asperities and peculiarities of their character, possibly in time become liberal Unitarian Christians, for your Jehovah is our Jehovah, and your God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is our God." (Letter to Mordecai Manuel Noah (1819), as quoted in *The Jews, Judea, and Christianity : A Discourse on the Restoration of the Jews* (1849) by M. M. Noah, p. xi.)
9. "Suppose a nation in some distant Region, should take the Bible for their only law Book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited. Every member would be obliged in Conscience to temperance and frugality and industry, to justice and kindness and Charity towards his fellow men, and to Piety and Love, and reverence towards almighty God. In this Commonwealth, no man would impair his health by Gluttony, drunkenness, or Lust-no man would sacrifice his most precious time to cards, or any other trifling and mean amusement-no man would steal or lie or any way defraud his neighbour, but would live in peace and good will with all men-no man would blaspheme his maker or prophane his Worship, but a rational and manly, a sincere and unaffected Piety and devotion, would reign in all hearts. What a Eutopa, what a Paradise would this region be." (Diary of John Adams, February 22, 1756)

10. "When we say God is a spirit, we know what we mean, as well as we do when we say that the pyramids of Egypt are matter. Let us be content, therefore, to believe him to be a spirit, that is, an essence that we know nothing of, in which originally and necessarily reside all energy, all power, all capacity, all activity, all wisdom, all goodness." (Letter to Thomas Jefferson (17 January 1820))
11. "The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever." (Adams wrote this in a letter to his wife, Abigail, on July 3, 1776)

**Thomas Jefferson (3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. President, Drafter and Signer of the Declaration of Independence):**

From:

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Jefferson](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson)

1. "And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep for ever: that considering numbers, nature and natural means only, a revolution of the wheel of fortune, an exchange of situation, is among possible events: that it may become probable by supernatural interference!" (Query XVIII (1782); for more quotes from this document see: *Notes on the State of Virginia* (1781-1785).)
2. "I, too, have made a wee-little book from the same materials, which I call the Philosophy of Jesus; it is a paradigma of his doctrines, made by cutting the texts out of the book, and arranging them on the pages of a blank book, in a certain order of time or subject. A more beautiful or precious morsel of ethics I have never seen; it is a document in proof that I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus, very different from the Platonists, who call me infidel and themselves Christians and preachers of the gospel, while they draw all their characteristic dogmas from what its author never said nor saw. They have compounded from the heathen mysteries a system beyond the comprehension of man, of which the great reformer of the vicious ethics and deism of the Jews, were he to return on earth, would not recognize one feature." (Letter to Charles Thomson (9 January 1816), on his *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth* (the "Jefferson Bible"), which omits all Biblical passages asserting Jesus' virgin birth, miracles, divinity, and resurrection. Published in *The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes*, Federal Edition, Paul Leicester Ford, ed., New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1904, Vol. 11, pp. 498–499.)
3. "The doctrines of Jesus are simple, and tend all to the happiness of man.
  1. That there is one only God, and he all perfect.
  2. That there is a future state of rewards and punishments.
  3. That to love God with all thy heart and thy neighbor as thyself, is the sum of religion.

These are the great points on which he endeavored to reform the religion of the Jews. But compare with these the demoralizing dogmas of Calvin.

1. That there are three Gods.
2. That good works, or the love of our neighbor, are nothing.
3. That faith is every thing, and the more incomprehensible the proposition, the more merit in its faith.
4. That reason in religion is of unlawful use.
5. That God, from the beginning, elected certain individuals to be saved, and certain others to be damned; and that no crimes of the former can damn them; no virtues of the latter save.

Now, which of these is the true and charitable Christian? He who believes and acts on the simple doctrines of Jesus? Or the impious dogmatists, as Athanasius and Calvin? Verily I say these are the false shepherds foretold as to enter not by the door into the sheepfold, but to climb up some other way. They are mere usurpers of the Christian name, teaching a counter-religion made up of the deliria of crazy imaginations, as foreign from Christianity as is that of Mahomet. Their blasphemies have driven thinking men into infidelity, who have too hastily rejected the supposed author himself, with the horrors so falsely imputed to him. Had the doctrines of Jesus been preached always as pure as they came from his lips, the whole civilized world would now have been Christian. I rejoice that in this blessed country of free inquiry and belief, which has surrendered its creed and conscience to neither kings nor priests, the genuine doctrine of one only God is reviving, and I trust that there is not a young man now living in the United States who will not die an Unitarian."

(Thomas Jefferson, letter to Benjamin Waterhouse, (26 June 1822), published in *The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes*, Federal Edition, Paul Leicester Ford, ed., New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1904, Vol. 12, pp. 241–243.)

4. "The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time; the hand of force may destroy, but cannot disjoin them." (*Summary View of the Rights of British America (1774)*; *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson* (19 Vols., 1905) edited by Andrew A. Lipscomb and Albert Ellery Bergh, Vol. 1, p. 211.)

**James Madison (4<sup>th</sup> U.S. President):**

From:

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/James\\_Madison](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/James_Madison)

1. "The belief in a God All Powerful wise and good, is so essential to the moral order of the world and to the happiness of man, that arguments which enforce it cannot be drawn from too many sources nor adapted with too much solicitude to the different characters and capacities to be impressed with it." (Letter to Rev. Frederick Beasley, 11/20/1825)

**James Monroe (5<sup>th</sup> U.S. President):**

From:

[http://christianity.about.com/od/independenceday/a/foundingfathers\\_2.htm](http://christianity.about.com/od/independenceday/a/foundingfathers_2.htm)

1. “When we view the blessings with which our country has been favored, those which we now enjoy, and the means which we possess of handing them down unimpaired to our latest posterity, our attention is irresistibly drawn to the source from whence they flow. Let us then, unite in offering our most grateful acknowledgments for these blessings to the Divine Author of All Good.” (Monroe made this statement in his 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Message to Congress, November 16, 1818)

**John Quincy Adams (6<sup>th</sup> U.S. President):**

From:

[http://christianity.about.com/od/independenceday/a/foundingfathers\\_2.htm](http://christianity.about.com/od/independenceday/a/foundingfathers_2.htm)

1. “The hope of a Christian is inseparable from his faith. Whoever believes in the divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures must hope that the religion of Jesus shall prevail throughout the earth. Never since the foundation of the world have the prospects of mankind been more encouraging to that hope than they appear to be at the present time. And may the associated distribution of the Bible proceed and prosper till the Lord shall have made 'bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God' (Isaiah 52:10).” (Life of John Quincy Adams, p. 248)

**Benjamin Franklin (Signer of the Declaration of Independence and Unites States Constitution):**

From:

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Benjamin\\_Franklin](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Benjamin_Franklin)

*Skousen, W. Cleon (2007). 5000 Year Leap: 30 Year Anniversary Edition with Glenn Beck Foreword*

1. “I've lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing Proofs I see of this Truth — *That God governs in the Affairs of Men*. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his Notice, is it probable that an Empire can rise without his Aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that except the Lord build the House they labor in vain who build it. I firmly believe this, — and I also believe that without his concurring Aid, we shall succeed in this political Building no better than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our Projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a Reproach and Bye word down to future Ages.” (Speech to the Constitutional Convention (28 June 1787); Manuscript notes by Franklin preserved in the Library of Congress)
2. “For my own Part, when I am employed in serving others, I do not look upon myself as conferring Favours, but as paying Debts. In my Travels, and since my Settlement, I have received much Kindness from Men, to whom I shall never have any Opportunity of making the least direct Return. And numberless Mercies from God, who is infinitely above being benefited by our Services. Those Kindnesses from Men, I can therefore only Return on their Fellow Men; and I can only shew my Gratitude for these mercies from God, by a readiness to help his other Children and my Brethren. For I do not think that Thanks and Compliments, tho' repeated weekly, can discharge our real Obligations to each other, and much less those to our Creator.” (Letter to Joseph Huey (6 June 1753); published in Albert Henry Smyth, *The Writings of Benjamin Franklin*, volume 3, p. 144.)

3. “The Faith you mention has doubtless its use in the World. I do not desire to see it diminished, nor would I endeavour to lessen it in any Man. But I wish it were more productive of good Works, than I have generally seen it: I mean real good Works, Works of Kindness, Charity, Mercy, and Publick Spirit; not Holiday-keeping, Sermon-Reading or Hearing; performing Church Ceremonies, or making long Prayers, filled with Flatteries and Compliments, despis’d even by wise Men, and much less capable of pleasing the Deity. The worship of God is a Duty; the hearing and reading of Sermons may be useful; but, if Men rest in Hearing and Praying, as too many do, it is as if a Tree should Value itself on being water’d and putting forth Leaves, tho’ it never produc’d any Fruit.” (Letter to Joseph Huey (6 June 1753); published in Albert Henry Smyth, *The Writings of Benjamin Franklin*, volume 3, p. 145.)
4. “We hear of the conversion of water into wine at the marriage in Cana as of a miracle. But this conversion is, through the goodness of God, made every day before our eyes. Behold the rain which descends from heaven upon our vineyards; there it enters the roots of the vines, to be changed into wine; a constant proof that God loves us, and loves to see us happy. The miracle in question was only performed to hasten the operation, under circumstances of present necessity, which required it.” (Letter to Abbé Morellet (1779).)
5. “Here is my creed: I believe in one God, the Creator of the universe. That he governs it by his providence. That he ought to be worshipped. That the most acceptable service we render to him is in doing good to his other children. That the soul of man is immortal, and will be treated with justice in another life respecting its conduct in this. These I take to be the fundamental points in all sound religion.” (letter to Ezra Stiles, president of Yale University)
6. “God grant, that not only the Love of Liberty, but a thorough Knowledge of the Rights of Man, may pervade all the Nations of the Earth, so that a Philosopher may set his Foot anywhere on its Surface, and say, “This is my Country.”” (Benjamin Franklin, letter to David Hartley (December 4, 1789); reported in Albert H. Smyth, ed., *The Writings of Benjamin Franklin*, (1907), volume 10, p. 72.)

**Samuel Adams (Known as “The Father of the American Revolution” and signer of the Declaration of Independence)**

From:

<http://ringthebellsoffreedom.com/Quotes/sadamscontent.htm>

1. “Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual – or at least that he ought not so to do; but rather he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.” (Writings in the Boston Gazette, June 12, 1780)
2. “In the supposed state of nature, all men are equally bound by the laws of nature, or to speak more properly, the laws of the Creator: - They are imprinted by the finger of God on the heart of man. Thou shall do no injury to thy neighbor, is the voice of nature and reason, and it is confirmed by written revelation.” (In a Proclamation of a Day of Fast as Governor of Massachusetts, March 20, 1797)

3. "The only true basis of all government is the laws of God and nature. For government is an ordinance of Heaven, designed by the all benevolent Creator." (Writings to Thomas Wells, November 22, 1780)
4. "Forasmuch as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to Him for benefits received and to implore such farther blessings as they stand in need of...to offer humble and earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot of remembrance...and to prosper the means of religion for the promotion and enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth "in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." (In Writings, April 2, 1781)

**Noah Webster (Founding Father; called the "Father of American Scholarship and Education")**

From:

*Separation of Church & State, What the Founders Meant* (David Barton, 2007)

1. "All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible."

**Patrick Henry (Orator and 1<sup>st</sup> Governor of Virginia):**

From:

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Patrick\\_Henry](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Patrick_Henry)

1. Quote of William Wirt Henry, regarding Patrick Henry – "One of his neighbors going to see him found him reading the Bible. Holding it up in his hand, he said: "This book is worth all the books that ever were printed, and it has been my misfortune that I have never found time to read it with the proper attention and feeling till lately. I trust in the mercy of Heaven that it is not yet too late." (William Wirt Henry, in *Patrick Henry : Life, Correspondence, and Speeches* (1891), vol. 2, p. 519. He gives the source of this anecdote as "Statement of George Dabney, MS. Letter to Mr. Wirt". Dabney was a lifelong friend of Henry's.)

**John Hancock (1<sup>st</sup> Signer of the Declaration of Independence):**

From:

<http://christianity.about.com/od/independenceday/a/foundingfathers.htm>

1. "Resistance to tyranny becomes the Christian and social duty of each individual. ... Continue steadfast and, with a proper sense of your dependence on God, nobly defend those rights which heaven gave, and no man ought to take from us." (History of the United States of America, Vol. II, p. 229)

## Alexis de Tocqueville (French Author)

From:

*Separation of Church & State, What the Founders Meant* (David Barton, 2007)

Alexis de Tocqueville was not an America Founding Father, but a French observer in America. In his famous work *Democracy in America*, published in 1835, Tocqueville wrote:

“There is no country in the whole world in which the Christian religion retains a greater influence over the souls of men than in America – and there can be no greater proof of its utility, and of its conformity to human nature, than that its influence is most powerfully felt over the most enlightened and free nation of the earth.”

## Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence was a statement adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, which announced that the thirteen American colonies, then at war with Great Britain, regarded themselves as independent states, and no longer a part of the British Empire. Instead they now formed a new nation--the United States of America.

Consider similarities between the Preamble in the Declaration of Independence and Christian principles:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

Mosiah 11:153 – “**153** And there was a strict command throughout all the churches, that there should be no persecutions among them, **that there should be an equality among all men**; that they should let no pride nor haughtiness disturb their peace”

2 Nephi 1:119-121 – “**119** Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. **120** **And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men**, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil: **121** For he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself.”

2 Nephi 1:11-15 – “**11** Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. **12** And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, **it shall be a land of liberty unto them**; **13** Wherefore, they shall never be brought down into captivity: if so, it shall be because of iniquity: **14** For if iniquity shall abound, cursed shall be the land for their sakes; **15** But unto the righteous, it shall be blessed forever.”

2 Nephi 7:18 – “**18** **And this land shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles: and there shall be no kings upon the land, which shall raise up unto the Gentiles.**”

2 Corinthians 3:17 – “**17** Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is liberty.**”

2 Nephi 1:115 – “**115** Adam fell, that men might be; and men are, **that they might have joy.**”

## 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment

The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the United States of America. The Constitution contains amendments, where the first ten are known collectively as the Bill of Rights.

Consider similarities between the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and Christian principles:

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

Alma 16:8-10 – “**8** Now there was no law against a man's belief; for it was strictly contrary to the commands of God, that there should be a law which should bring men on to unequal grounds. **9** For thus saith the scripture, Choose ye this day whom ye will serve. **10** Now if a man desired to serve God, it was his privilege, or rather if he believed in God, it was his privilege to serve him; but if he did not believe in him, there was no law to punish him.”

## The Ten Commandments

Consider some of the Ten Commandments against the laws and beliefs we live by in America (unfortunately, this is rapidly changing):

Exodus 20:3-6 – “**3** Thou shalt have no other gods before me. **4** Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. **5** Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; **6** And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”

Exodus 20:7 – “**7** Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”

Exodus 20:8-10 – “**8** Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: **10** But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: **11** For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Exodus 20:12 – “**12** Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”

Exodus 20:13 – “**13** Thou shalt not kill.”

Exodus 20:14 – “**14** Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

Exodus 20:15 – “**15** Thou shalt not steal.”

Exodus 20:16 – “**16** Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.”

Exodus 20:17 – “**17** Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.”

### **Separation of Church and State**

From:

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Jefferson](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson)

In a letter, Thomas Jefferson wrote this in 1802:

“Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legislative powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should *“make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,”* thus building a wall of separation between church and State. (Letter to Danbury Baptist Association, CT., 1 January 1802)

This statement is the origin of the often used phrase *“separation of Church and State”*.

The intent of the original statement by Thomas Jefferson was to convey that via the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, the religious rights of the population should not be infringed upon, keeping Government out of the religious beliefs of its citizens and their right to practice that religion. Unfortunately, this statement has been incorrectly interpreted to mean that religion should be kept out of all public and Government institutions (opposite of the original intent). Furthermore, this is simply a letter written by Thomas Jefferson, and not a law of any sort. It is not part of the Constitution. The Supreme Court has repeatedly cited this phrase in judgments that it makes.